

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

April 23, 2007

Chairman Clark called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. Board members present were Stephen Clark, Richard Gandt, John McArdle, and Heidi Bond. Boyd Jackson was absent. Of the Selectmen's staff Town Administrator Virginia Wilder, & Donna Rich, Board Secretary, were in attendance. Other persons present were Jane Schraffa of Topsfield Cable, Hilary Shepard of the Tri-Town Transcript and Faye Raynard of the Village Reporter.

Announcements: Chairman Clark announced that the Board would go into executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss the Fire Union Contract, Police Union Contract, Highway & Water Union Contract, Parks & Cemetery Union Contract, Police Reserve Contract and Lopez v. Martino, they would not return to open session.

Selectmen Minutes: Selectman Bond made a motion to approve the minutes of April 17, 2007 as amended; seconded by Selectman Gandt; so voted 5-0. Selectman Gandt made a motion to accept the minutes from the Special Meeting of April 14, 2007, seconded by Chairman Clark, so voted 4-0. Chairman Clark made a motion to accept the minutes from the Executive Session of April 14, 2007 as amended, seconded by Selectman Gandt; so voted 4-0. Selectman Bond made a motion to accept the minutes from the Special Meeting of February 21, 2007, seconded by Selectman Gandt, so voted 4-0. Selectman Gandt made a motion to accept the minutes from the Executive Session Meeting February 21, 2007 and to hold until all issues have been resolved; seconded by Selectman McArdle, so voted 4-0. Selectman Gandt made a motion to accept the minutes from the Special Meeting of March 21, 2007 as amended, seconded by Selectman Bond, so voted 4-0. Selectman Gandt made a motion to accept the minutes from the Executive Session of March 21, 2007 as amended and to hold until all issues have been resolved, seconded by Selectman Bond, so voted 4-0. Selectman Gandt made a motion to accept the minutes from the Special Meeting of March 24, 2007 as amended, seconded by Selectman Bond, so voted 4-0. Selectman Bond made a motion to accept the minutes from the Executive Session of March 24, 2007 and to hold until all issues have been resolved; seconded by Selectman Gandt, so voted 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Personnel By-Law: Chairman Clark made a motion to support the changes to Chapter XLI, Personnel By-Law to be voted at the Annual Town Meeting, seconded by Selectman Gandt, so voted 4-0.

Route 97 & 35 Intersection: Chairman Clark asked if Representative Speliotis had made any additional contact with the BOS office regarding the Route 97 & 35 Intersection. Ms. Wilder reported that no further contact had been made to date.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of Memorial Day Parade: Selectman Gandt made a motion to approve the Veteran's Day Committee request to hold the Annual Parade and Ceremony for Monday, May 28 at 9AM in Topsfield. It was seconded by Chairman Clark, so voted 4-0.

Transfer from Overlay to Overlay Reserve Account: Selectman Gandt noted that the Board of Assessors is transferring \$79,923.36 to the Overlay Reserve account.

Beekeeping Building: Selectman Bond read a press release stating that the Topsfield Fair has officially turned the use of its Beekeeping Building over to the Town of Topsfield to be used by the Council on Aging for special activities 11 months of the year. Sheila Field, COA Director was quoted as saying the building would be used May 1 through early September and then again in mid-October after the annual fair closes. Accordingly, it will be open to the town's senior citizens Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from about 8:30AM until 2:30PM. Coffee and refreshments will be available and activities such as line-dancing and games will be offered. The building is located alongside the 4-H Building. Ms. Wilder was quoted as saying that the town will continue to work towards a permanent location for its Council on Aging.

Town Administrator's Report:

Please see attached report. The Town Hall Building Committee submitted names to be approved by the Board of Selectmen; however, they noted that the Town Administrator will be making those appointments. The following are the names of those interested people: Bette Cullinan, Heidi Fox, Jim Ugone, Al Wallace and Alison Hardy.

Correspondence & Reports

- Several letters and reports were received
 - Drainage area blockage at 59 Willowdale Rd: it was reported that the Highway Department has been out to do a manual clean-out of the area, and would go back when the ground is not so soft. The Highway Department will work with the Conservation Commission on this project.
 - 59 Willowdale Rd License Agreement
 - Blockage of Brook at Maple St: Selectman Gandt stated that the Town needs to anticipate and do something different in regards to pending storms with potential blockage of brooks and streams. He stated that the author of the letter, Mr. Dunbar went downstream about 200-300 feet to clean out a screen in the brook. It was clogged, causing the brook to back up and creating flooding on his property. Selectman Gandt said it is very much appreciated when the townspeople send in letters stating the problems that are around town so the Board can be aware of them.
 - Release of Trichloroethylene at 202 Perkins Row
 - Drainage System at Forrest Rd: Noted that this appears to be a one time fix.
 - Letter of interest for the Town Hall Building Committee from Heidi Fox
 - Electrical Generation Wind Turbines: As a follow up to an email from Pete & Deb Hayes, Selectman Gandt noted that Hull's municipal electric utility installed wind turbines have been successful. However, he noted that Hull's a coastal community that adds to their wind generation potential. He was not sure if it would be as successful in our community. Further, since Topsfield does not have a municipal electric utility infrastructure, it would be difficult for the town to enter into the wind turbine business.
 - Verizon Newsletter
 - MMA Action Alert #5

- FAA Briefing of Logan Centerfield Taxiway Study and the Boston Overflight Noise Study to be held May 3rd at 9:30-3PM.
- Essex National Heritage Commission Semi Annual Commission Meeting
- Honorees of the Independent Living Award
- Finance Committee Minutes of April 4, 2007
- Conservation Commission, DOA 1 Hill St, OoC 17 Morningside Dr, letter for proposed project at Rte 1 & Rte 97 to Mass Highway Dept.
- Library Board of Trustees Minutes of January 9, 2007
- Surface & Ground Water Study Committee Minutes of March 8, 2007

Chairman Clark noted that this was the last meeting prior to Town Meeting which is to be held at the Proctor School, Tuesday May 1 beginning at 7PM. Election Day is Thursday, May 3rd at St. Roses Church from 7AM – 8PM. The Board of Selectmen will meet with the Finance Committee and Moderator prior to the Town Meeting at 6PM in the Teachers Room at Proctor School.

Selectman Gandt commented that all residents should have received the Town Warrant. To summarize the Warrant:

- There are 17 Standard Articles: reports, budgets, revolving funds, lease of Emerson Field, landfill, reserve & stabilization funds along with free cash items.
 - There are 8 Capital Articles, one time expenses: bridges, library HVAC, backhoe, sander, Proctor School doors, Town Hall refurbish, copier and water meters.
 - There are 7 Bylaw dispositions: personnel, soil removal, open space, COA Board, Water Use, Procurement-Execs to TA and Noncriminal disposition enforcement law.
 - Two Articles to adopt provisions of Massachusetts General Laws
 - There is a housekeeping Article about Tax bills under \$25.00
 - An Article regarding the easements for the Ipswich Road project
 - To change Articles street to road and length of contracts
 - One Article regarding joining the Mosquito Control
 - One Article regarding an alcohol license
 - One Article regarding a study of regional ops center (911)
- All these Articles total to a total of 41.

Warrants: The Selectmen signed and approved warrants in the amount of **\$188,994.43**. The breakdown is as follows:

Warrant #FY07:

085T	\$ 71,301.88
084	\$117,692.55

Executive Session: At 8:16 PM, Chairman Clark entertained a motion to go into executive session to discuss the Highway/Water Union Contracts, Parks & Cemetery Union Contracts, Fire Union Contract, Police Union Contract and Police Reserve Contract, Lopez v. Martino; so moved by Selectman Gandt and seconded by Selectman Bond. A yes vote was recorded for Chairman Clark, Selectmen Gandt, Selectmen McArdle and Selectman Bond. The Board would not return to regular session. Virginia Wilder and Donna Rich were present also.

Respectively submitted,

Donna Rich, Secretary
Board of Selectmen's Office

Approved as amended at the May 7, 2007 Board of Selectmen meeting.